

Recommendation for approval of a new non-rule policy that establishes the Youth Free Hunting Days for the years of 2010 and 2011.

According to IC 14-22-11-18, the DNR Director may designate up to four (4) days a year as free youth hunting days. A youth hunter under the age of eighteen (18) can hunt on these dates without a state hunting license or stamp privilege. The DNR usually designates these dates as the first full weekend after September 1 when dove and squirrel season are open, as well as the weekend after Thanksgiving when deer, eastern cottontail rabbit, squirrel, and other gamebird and furbearer seasons are open, providing youth hunters with opportunities to hunt a number of species.

Below is a copy of the law authorizing these free youth hunting days.

IC 14-22-11-18

Free hunting days

Sec. 18. (a) The director may designate not more than four (4) days each year as free hunting days for youth hunters.

(b) During a free hunting day for youth hunters designated under subsection (a), a resident who is less than eighteen (18) years of age may:

- (1) hunt using hunting methods that are designated by the director and that are legal for that hunting season; and
- (2) exercise the same privileges that a resident is entitled to under IC 14-22-12-1(24).

A youth hunter is not required to pay a fee or possess a hunting license.

(c) A youth hunter who hunts during a free hunting day for youth hunters under this section must:

- (1) comply with the conditions and rules adopted by the director; and
- (2) be accompanied by an individual who:
 - (A) is at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
 - (B) holds a valid hunting license under IC 14-22-12 or is not required to have a hunting license under this chapter.

(d) The individual under subsection (c)(2) who accompanies the youth hunter:

- (1) must be in close enough proximity to monitor the youth hunter's activities and communicate with the youth hunter at all times; and
- (2) may assist the youth hunter, including calling, but may not carry a firearm or bow and arrow.

As added by P.L.132-2006, SEC.3. Amended by P.L.18-2009, SEC.3.

The DNR is requesting approval of this non-rule policy that sets forth the youth free hunting days for both 2010 and 2011.

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Subject: Free Youth Hunting Days (IC 14-22-11-18)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the dates for the Free Youth Hunting Days in the years of 2010 and 2011, as authorized in IC 14-22-11-18.

2. Background

According to IC 14-22-11-18, the director of the Department of Natural Resources may designate up to four (4) days a year as free youth hunting days. The DNR usually designates these dates as the first full weekend after September 1 when dove and squirrel season are open, as well as the weekend after Thanksgiving when deer, eastern cottontail rabbit, squirrel, and other gamebird and furbearer seasons are open, providing youth hunters with opportunities to hunt a number of species.

3. Dates

The Free Youth Hunting Days for the years of 2010 and 2011 are as follows:

September 4 and 5, 2010
November 27 and 28, 2010
September 3 and 4, 2011
November 26 and 27, 2011